

GLAD NEWS & NOTES

January 15, 1995

Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

so that you may be children of your Creator in heaven; for God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Creator is perfect.

Matthew 5:42-48

We pray that everyone has had a joyous and blessed Christmas, as we celebrated the birth of the one who exhorts us to be the people God would have us to be. Let us, each and every one, as we begin the new year, recommit ourselves to the word of God, the teaching of Christ, the life of those who would follow Jesus. Let us be clear, that in all of our churches, the large and the small, the new and the old, we have been given the commission to bring the Gospel to all who have yet to know the comfort, love and salvation of Jesus Christ. Let every person, every ministry, thank God for the abundance of blessings that have been bestowed on the work of the District and this Denomination.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

CHARLESTON. Pastor Mary Moore, and several others of that fun-loving congregation, surprised church-goers during the Christmas observance by "Gift wrapping" the church. Those attending Christmas service were greeted by a big ribbon on the church door. Children from the congregation were invited to cut away the wrappings. This rapidly growing congregation now has 136 members. MCC Charleston is working with the North Charleston Homeless shelter, donating their labor to improve facilities, and their money to help make the improvements possible.

SAVANNAH. MCC Savannah has experienced increasing interest in their ministry. Attendance is now in the low 20s. Their worship leader, Tracy Dittmer, most recently with MCC Charleston, has exciting plans for the future of this new work.

GREENSBORO. Rev. Christine Oscar will conduct a "Grief & Bereavement" workshop Saturday February 18, 8:30 A to 3 P. For information call St. Mary's MCC 910 272 1606. St. Mary's, whose Pastor, Rev. Christine Oscar has had the longest continuous service of any GLAD Pastor, continues to provide worship in

different Greensboro locations. Their commitment and constancy has been a blessing to all of us in GLAD.

BIRMINGHAM. Covenant MCC continues to be blessed with a growing attendance, frequently over 100 at Sunday worship, is making long range plans about their sanctuary. There is a possibility that they could purchase their current worship space, but at considering whether their rapid growth will dictate that they consider construction of a facility. Covenant's choir, under the direction of Susan Walker, performed a Christmas Cantata as part of a worship service before 149 people.

TUSCALOOSA. A group of worshippers, as a Parish Extension of Covenant, has been meeting at the Holiday Inn on McFarland off I-20 a 4 PM on Sundays. Student Clergy John Hankins is serving as the Pastoral Leader.

MEMPHIS. Two men who moved to Memphis from Virginia, where they attended MCC of Northern Virginia, have spearheaded the development of an MCC outreach in Memphis. Rev. Felicia Fontaine, of MCC Huntsville, representing the District, met with 10 people on January 19 to begin planning for an MCC Church. The group will meet at the Gay-Lesbian Center, 1486 Madison, each Sunday evening at 5 PM during the planning period, and on March 3 (Friday), there will be a seminar on the Bible and Homosexuality. For information about this study group you can call 901-272-1022.

BOONE. MCC of the High Country will begin a formal relationship with

Appalachian State University, as they take an active role in the Campus Ministries. Pastoral Leader, Cindy Long, will be working with the Watauga County Ministerial Association in the area of HIV/AIDS.

RALEIGH. St. John's MCC recently hosted Rev. Irene Travis of the Cathedral of Hope, Dallas. Reverend Travis brought the Sunday morning and evening message as part of the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. St. John's has announced that David Heid, who is well known in the denomination for his music ministry, has joined their staff as Director of Music. David, who has visited many GLAD churches with his music partner Jane Syftestad, will team up with Jane and Randa McNamara of St. John's for a concert on February 22 at 7:30.

ATLANTA. First MCC has also added a Director of Music to their staff. Tim Tyson has ambitious plans for an expanded choir. First MCC plans to move into its large sanctuary on Easter Sunday. And, none too soon, as their attendance on Sunday morning is exceeding 200.

GREENVILLE. Pastor Reverend Mick Hinson reports there were 75 attending worship, a new record, Sunday January 8.

COLUMBIA. Rev. Patricia Voelker, Pastor, reports a new and revitalized ministry in this South Carolina city. many people have contacted the church to tell them how glad they are to have MCC back in Columbia.

MOBILE. It's early, but the women and men of MCC Mobile want to extend a special invitation to join them for their 10th anniversary celebration the weekend of March 3-5. They will have our founder and moderator, Rev. Troy Perry, leading the activities.

TRI CITIES, TN. PLEASE MAKE THIS CORRECTION - THE ZIP CODE IN THE MAILING ADDRESS FOR MCC TRI-CITIES IS 37601-1612.

Pastor Chuck Thompson reports that veteran board member Richard Morefield has again been elected to their Board of Directors. Richard has served that congregation in many different capacities -- and served them all well.

CHATTANOOGA. Reverend Polly Ireland leaves this pulpit on January 22. Polly will be working as a counselor with Chattanooga CARES, an AIDS service agency. Polly's service in Chattanooga has been outstanding. The congregation has grown, and they own their own building. We wish her well in her new endeavor. Polly and her spouse, Carol Couch, are in our prayers. MCC Chattanooga will begin its Pastoral search.

KNOXVILLE. Reverend Jim Richards, Pastor, MCC Knoxville, will serve as the Press officer for General Conference in Atlanta in July.

ATLANTA. All Saints MCC is embarking on a Pastoral search. We keep the men and women of this congregation in our prayers and close to our hearts. Please keep them in your prayers. This congregation has been one of this district's outstanding ministries,

and we know that they will continue the commitment in faith.

WINSTON SALEM. This New Work moved into their own sanctuary, a former Primitive Baptist Church, at the end of last year. recent attendance has averaged around 80. The church they purchased is at 2315 Huff, Winston Salem. David Tedder is their new Minister of Music.

HUNTSVILLE. Reverend Marianne McPherson, Pastor of MCC Pueblo (Colorado) was in Huntsville to meet with that congregation as a candidate for their pulpit. Members of the board report the early January visit was very positive. The congregation votes January 29 on the candidacy. Marianne and her spouse Terry McPherson "loved" northern Alabama, and were very impressed with the Huntsville Church. Some of you don't have Huntsville's new telephone number. Please put it on your list 205-851-6914.

AND SPEAKING OF PHONES:

South Alabama has a near area code: 334 So, when calling Montgomery or Mobile, make the change to 334.

HICKORY. These wonderful folks have just added member #41. Congratulations to a group that epitomizes commitment and constancy. Pastor Reverend Nancy and spouse Debbie and all of the members of the congregation have our respect and love.

WILMINGTON. St. Jude's MCC just keeps on, keeping on. They didn't miss a step following conference. That congregation did an outstanding job, working with the District Committee to bring the Fall '94 district conference.

That conference set all kinds of attendance records, and the feed-back in your evaluations has been positive and helpful. Lou Clemmons of that congregation, who chaired their conference committee, has surgery January 20, keep him and partner Jimmy in prayer.

MONTGOMERY. Now it's your turn. MCC Montgomery gearing up for spring '95 district conference, MAY 5 - 7 at the Madison Hotel. Pastor Rev. Bev Stephenson reports that a committee for the conference is being formed. Conference information will be mailed next month.

ASHEVILLE. Pastor Reverend Frank Scott observes his 20th anniversary of UFMCC Pastoring on February 5th. There will be a special Worship marking this milestone. Frank served in the United States, before moving to England for a decade. He recently vacationed in Great Britain renewing old acquaintances, and recalling fond memories.

CHARLOTTE. MCC New Life will be selling its building in Matthews. It has become clear that the sanctuary in Matthews will never be the church home they want and need. A buyer has offered and very generous sum that exceeds significantly the original purchase price. But the vision of their own church home remains.

JACKSON. MCC of the Rainbow is seeking new worship quarters. They recently experienced a "break-in" and they lost all of their altar ware.

BILOXI. Members of MCC Biloxi report that things are going very well for

them, as they continue meeting at the "G/L Friendly" building.

CHARLOTTE. February is an exciting month for MCC Charlotte. They mark their 15th anniversary, and they move into larger quarters. They will still meet in the Varnadore Building, but they have taken 5-thousand square feet on the third floor. This will help them to accommodate their rapidly expanding ministry.

COLUMBUS. Reverend Liz Leech has stepped down as Pastoral leader of this new work. A worship team will be in place until another Pastoral Leader can be called.

ATLANTA. Christ Covenant has invited a native American Christian Minister, Adei-Mai Morningstar Grenpastures, to bring their morning message February 12 at 11 A. Also as part of black history month, they will have Dr. Luther Smith, a CME Minister, and Professor of Church & Community at Candler bring the message at 11A February 26.

NASHVILLE. Pastor Reverend Dr. Buddy Truluck reports that attendance is on the increase, and that the mid-week bible study consistently draws over 20 participants each week.

AUGUSTA. MCC Augusta will consider moving into new worship quarters. Rev'd. Jeff Pulliam reports the owners of their present site are seeking a large increase in the monthly rent.

MYRTLE BEACH. MCC Myrtle beach is beginning a Deacon's training program. Pastor Kathy Beall of St. Jude's in Wilmington is working with the church on the training. The group continues to

their present site are seeking a large increase in the monthly rent.

MYRTLE BEACH. MCC Myrtle beach is beginning a Deacon's training program. Pastor Kathy Beall of St. Jude's in Wilmington is working with the church on the training. The group continues to stock and serve the CARE team food pantry. Worship Coordinator Dan Walsh, who assumed the day to day responsibilities when Rev'd. Buddy Vess resigned, reports the commitment to the work in Myrtle beach continues to be strong. Buddy Vess is now serving an MCC Congregation in Waco, TX,

ATTENTION ALL CHURCHES:

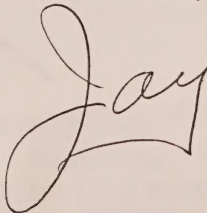
When there are changes in your lay-delegation, please be certain to contact the District office and the Lay Representative of the District Committee. We need to keep an up-dated list.

WE ALSO NEED YOUR HELP WITH: Information for the newsletter. We have not published for a couple of months (November-December), because of the lack of information, as well as a particularly involved schedule for the DC. Others want to know how your are doing.

DISTRICT COORDINATOR' S ITINERARY:

January 3 All Saints Board of Directors Meeting
January 5-10 ETFSS/Elders meeting Los Angeles
January 14 First MCC's 23rd. Anniversary Dinner
January 26 All Saints Board of Directors Meeting
January 27 ETFSS Focus Group meeting in Atlanta
January 28 Visioning Meeting First MCC Board & Staff
January 29 MCC Chattanooga
February 5 MCC Asheville
February 11-12 MCC Mobile
February 18-19 MCC Charlotte

Have a fabulous month. We Look forward to seeing all of you in Montgomery at District Conference in May, and in Atlanta in July for General Conference. We are happy to let all of you know that the Clerk of the District Committee, Sharon Lindenbaum, is just doing splendidly following her heart surgery late last year. God Bless you!



G.L.A.D.
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March 20, 1995

*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come into the LORD's presence with singing.
Know that the LORD is GOD. It is GOD that made us, and we are GOD's; we are
GOD's people and the sheep of GOD's pasture.
Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving, and the LORD's courts with praise.
Give thanks to the LORD and bless the name of the LORD.
For the LORD is good; the steadfast love of the LORD endures forever, and the LORD's
faithfulness to all generations*
Psalm 100: 1-5

Let us remember to always raise the LORD our GOD's name in praise. As we come to this year's District Conference, **Sing a New Church**, let the nations hear our 'GLAD' voices, for we worship a MIGHTY GOD. GOD's blessings on this District are bountiful. Let us be thankful and call into being a strong, steadfast, and triumphant Church to the glory of our SAVIOR. Look around at the exciting things that are happening and know that even greater things will be accomplished because GOD is our STRENGTH and our REDEEMER. What an AWESOME GOD we serve! Let GOD give us the gift of song to **Sing a New Church !!!**

† † † † † † †

DISTRICT CONFERENCE IS ALMOST HERE

Join us in

Montgomery, Alabama

May 5, 6, & 7, 1995

THE MADISON HOTEL

(Hotel registration required before April 5 to assure room)

"SING A NEW CHURCH"

Rev. Elder Donald Eastman - Rev. Elder Darlene Garner - Rev. Frank Scott
our special guests

Worship -- Music -- Workshops -- Fellowship
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM ENCLOSED

Hotel Reservation Deadline (at Conference Rates)...APRIL 5, 1995

MEL WHITE ENDS FAST--IS RELEASED FROM JAIL

Our own Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice, arrested last month for trespassing on the grounds of the Christian Broadcasting Network, is free! White, who fasted during his entire incarceration, was released on March 8 after Pat Robertson and CBN spokesperson Gene Kapp met with him in jail and dropped the charges against him.

"I'm glad it's over," said the 14 and a half pounds lighter White, following his release from jail. "It's the first time he, (Robertson) has sat in prayer with a gay man in all his life," said White.

During the brief meeting, White asked Robertson to acknowledge the rise in hate crimes against the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered community, and to publicly condemn those who commit or incite such crimes. Robertson told White he would consider his requests and respond later.

Our prayers, our support, and our activism is still needed to continue the work of ending prejudice and claiming the GOD-given rights we deserve as the children of GOD. Speak up, speak out, and be counted in the community of faith.

FROM AROUND GLAD

ATLANTA. Rev'd. Dr. Don Clark has been appointed to the position of Interim-Pastor at All Saints MCC. Rev'd. Clark has been attending services with that congregation for over a year. Don has an outstanding singing voice in addition to his many other gifts.

ATLANTA. Rev. Glenna Shepard, Christ Covenant MCC in Stone Mountain, announces the installation of six new Deacons on April 30. The new Deacons are Jane Culpepper, Daniel Tucker, Michael Calvert, Deb Cootes, Meg Salden, and Mary Louise Upshaw. Rev. Shepherd also invites you to help cheer on their softball team, the Christ Covenant Angels, as it competes in the Hotlanta Softball League. They will also be celebrating their 3rd Anniversary on May 13th.

ATLANTA. Rev. Reid Christensen, Pastor, First MCC, invites you to mark

your calendars for July 23. That will be the first day of General Conference in Atlanta, and on that Sunday morning First MCC will dedicate their large new sanctuary. Reverend Troy Perry will officiate and bring the message. Also, Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey will be presenting a spiritual renewal weekend on April 28-30th.

CHARLOTTE. MCC Charlotte has created a wonderful worship environment in their new sanctuary space.

They recently added 9 new Deacons to their ministerial staff and will be at 100 members with the joining of new members on April 2nd. They have also hired Jill Johns as Minister of Congregational Care as a part-time staff person.

Hotel Information AND Conference Registration Form
Gulf Lower Atlantic District Conference --May 5, 6, 7, 1995
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, The Madison Hotel, Montgomery, AL.

SING A NEW CHURCH

SPEAKERS: Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, and Rev. Frank Scott

1) **Hotel room rate:** \$50.00 plus tax per night (up to four persons per room) if **reserved as a member of GLAD**. To receive this \$50.00 rate, room reservations need to be made **by April 5, 1995**. The Madison Hotel, Montgomery; AL. Reservations 1-800-228-5586; Local phone--205-264-2231. Free parking.

2) **Early Conference registration fee:** \$40.00 received on or before April 28, 1995. Late registration fee: \$45.00. The early registration fee includes a buffet breakfast Saturday morning. Early conference registrants will be pre-registered and will receive conference schedules by mail.

Please Print	<u>Conference Registration Form</u>	Please Print
Last Name: _____ Title: Ms/ Mr/ Rev/ Pastor/ Dr _____		
First Name (to appear on your name tag) _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____		
Church Affiliation: _____		
Indicate (Member, Pastor, Pastoral Leader, Lay Delegate, Staff, Student Clergy, District Committee, Deacon, Board Member, Visitor etc.): _____		
Name(s), Title(s), and Church Affiliation(s) of any other person(s) to be included in this reservation: _____ _____ _____		

I am available to participate in worship: (actual assignments will be made at conference)		
Friday Evening _____	Saturday Evening _____	Sunday Morning _____
I am willing to: _____ Lead Prayer	_____ Read	_____ Usher
_____ Serve Communion	_____ Take Offering	_____ Assist with Communion

Please describe any particular needs _____
(If appropriate, also inform hotel)

Friday Night Dinner (optional)
Dinner Speaker: Rev. Elder Darlene Garner
"ETFSS AND BEYOND"

Dinner tickets @\$20 each \$ _____

Registrations @\$40 each \$ _____
after April 28 @\$45 each \$ _____

Checks should be made out to GLAD
and enclosed with this registration form.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to Gulf Lower Atlantic District Office, 1379 Tullie Rd., Atlanta, GA 30329.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE XX

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
The Madison Hotel

May 5, 6 and 7, 1995
Montgomery, AL

Conference Theme:

✠ *SING A NEW CHURCH* ✠

portion of text:

"Summoned by the God who made us, Rich in our
diversity,
Gathered in the name of Jesus, Richer still in unity.

Female and male in God's image,
Male and female in God's delight.

Refrain:

Let us bring the gifts that differ
And, in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being
one in faith and love and praise."

WORSHIP

WORKSHOPS

FELLOWSHIP

OUR SPEAKERS FOR CONFERENCE:

Rev. Elder Donald Eastman

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner

Rev. Frank Scott

*Text: Delores Dufner, OSB. © 1991, Srs. of St. Benedict. Published by OCP Publications.
All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,"
from J. Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Pt. II, 1813.*

CHARLOTTE. Rev. Bob Darst, Pastor New Life MCC tells us that the pending purchase of a new building fell through. New Life, is selling their property in Matthews, NC, because the neighbors are harassing them with lawsuits, zoning challenges, and outright hostility. Let us keep them in prayer during this time. Also they are saddened by the loss of Deacon Ernie Payne due to AIDS and are in need of prayers during this time of grief.

ASHEVILLE. A brainstorming session at MCC Asheville challenged members and friends to begin the work toward acquiring that congregation's own sanctuary and meeting space.

GREENVILLE. Rev. Mick Hinson reports that MCC Greenville has begun a church search program and hopes to be moving by October. Their membership is now at 65 and growing; 8 people were in their last Inquirer's Class. The need for a church search has been attributed to their growth and the moving of the Holy Spirit. Praise God! Also, MCC Greenville became Incorporated last month.

GREENSBORO. Pastor Rev. Christine Oscar advises that Rev. Delores Berry will return to St. Mary's for their April 9th service at 7pm. Rev. Berry's ministry is a special work of the Mid-Atlantic District of the UFMCC. Don't miss her unique style of preaching and singing-- a super spiritual experience. Rev. Oscar will also be facilitating a "Coping With Grief" seminar on April 1st at the Resurrection Lutheran Church from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm. Due in part to the AIDS epidemic, our community has

experienced an almost unheard of amount of grief. This seminar is designed to help people understand grief, bereavement, and reconciliation processes in themselves and others.

BOONE, NC. Cindy Long, Worship Coordinator for MCC of the High Country, reports that she has met with that county's Ministerial Association and that the meeting went well and that no further conflicts were brought up. Cindy wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and support. Let us continue to keep Cindy and MCC of the High Country in our prayers.

TRI-CITIES. New Beginnings, a local bar in Johnson City, will be holding a fund-raiser and benefit show for Tri-Cities MCC. This marks the first time such an event has taken place to benefit our church there.

CHATTANOOGA. They are currently using guest speakers for their worship services. Anyone interested in presenting a message may call the church office at 615-629-2737.

CHARLESTON. Pastor Mary Moore reports that they are now averaging over 100 people in their worship services.

HUNTSVILLE. Rev. Marianne McPherson will be installed on Sunday, May 21. A Spiritual Renewal with Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Havery is schedule for May 19, 20, 21.

MOBILE. They celebrated their tenth Anniversary March 3rd through 5th, with Rev. Elder Troy Perry. They had over 190 people in attendance at the weekend events with people from the other churches in GLAD and with folks from MCC Penescola, Florida.

SAMARITAN NEWS

At least three Samaritan courses will be offered in Atlanta this summer in conjunction with UFMCC General Conference. Samaritan plans to offer Introduction to Sexuality Studies, Worship, and Preaching. The details for these classes are being determined by Samaritan. Because we did not want to conflict or compete with these course offerings, the GLAD/Samaritan Partnership will not be offering any additional classes until the Third Trimester.

Please remember our regularly scheduled meetings at the upcoming District Conference in Montgomery. GLAD Samaritan faculty will meet during lunch on Saturday. It is usually easiest to meet in the hotel restaurant, so please plan on doing this again in Montgomery. In addition, there will be a meeting for any Samaritan students or prospective students on Saturday right after the evening worship service. Please congregate in the back of the worship space at the end of the service.

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First
Metropolitan Community Church
of Atlanta

March 16, 1995

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

District Conference is just a few weeks off--May 5th through May 7th. As we begin making arrangements for the music, I wanted to write to all of the churches in our district to solicit participants for the special music through out the conference.

The theme for the conference is SING A NEW CHURCH. Please announce to your congregation that applications for soloists and ensembles are being accepted until April 19, 1995. Please make copies of the applications as needed. Your help in publicizing this information is of great importance.

If you or a member or group from your church is interested in participating in the special music of the service, please take just a moment now to fill out and return the information sheet. An audition tape is also required of the performance of the piece(s) your soloist(s) or group(s) wish to perform. Of course, we want the performance tape to be an actual performance by the soloist or group that wants to perform at conference. Tapes will not be returned. All information sheets and tapes must be received no later than April 19, 1995. Selected participants will be notified the week of April 24th.

Additionally, we want to have a dynamic conference choir. So, encourage all of your (trained and not so trained) musicians to participate in the conference choir. The conference choir rehearsal will be held on Saturday. The conference choir will perform Saturday night. In order to participate in the conference choir performance, one must attend the rehearsal.

I am excited about this year's district conference and look forward to seeing all of you. I trust God is blessing your service for God in your local churches. See you soon!

pax, amore et felicitas,

Tim Tyson

Music Director, First MCC Atlanta

DISTRICT CONFERENCE, Montgomery, AL
May 5, 6, 7, 1995

CHOIR MEMBER APPLICATION

The Conference Choir will sing at the Saturday evening service, May 6, 1995. The Choir will rehearse once during the Conference. Specific rehearsal times will be announced in future Conference mailings.

In order to become a Conference Choir member, please submit this application, plus a photocopy. You must acquire the signed recommendation of two of the following: your pastor/pastoral leader; your music director; your district coordinator; your district lay representative. Participation in the Conference Choir is open to all who submit completed applications. The application is to give the director an idea of the resources available.

Please come to District Conference prepared to wear a light-hued, solid-color top (shirt, sweater, blouse) and a dark-hued bottom (dress slacks or skirt) for the worship service in which the Choir will minister.

Conference registration is not a pre-requisite of Conference Choir participation.

Please Fill Out One Application Per Person:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Home _____ Work _____

Vocal Classification: ___ Soprano ___ Alto ___ Tenor ___ Bass

I certify that I am involved in _____ (MCC Congregation) and would be willing to provide my services as a Conference Choir member at the direction of the Conference Choir Director.

Signature _____
Date _____

Recommendation:

We, the undersigned, recommend the ministry of this choir applicant for District Conference:

Signature _____ Date _____
Position/Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____
Position/Title _____

Deadline:

Applications must be **postmarked** by **April 19, 1995**.

Return Completed Application To:

Dr. Tim Tyson, Director of Music
First MCC of Atlanta
1379 Tullie Road
Atlanta, GA. 30329

DISTRICT CONFERENCE, MONTGOMERY, AL.
May 5, 6, 7, 1995

SOLOIST APPLICATION

Soloists asked to minister in worship services at District Conference will be scheduled as time restrictions allow. Due to the number and structure of services, it is not possible to use all who offer their musical gifts. Rehearsal time, space and sound check time may be arranged with the Director of Music. To apply you must submit:

1. This application form plus a photocopy. This form must include the signed recommendation of two of the following: your pastor/pastoral leader; your music director; your district coordinator; your district lay representative.
2. A cassette audition tape. Applicants will be evaluated on the quality of the content, not the quality of the recording. The tape should include two different titles that speak about different aspects of the Christian faith/experience. Selections must fall with the UFMCC guidelines for inclusive language.
3. The proposed lyrics of the two titles contained on the tape, typed double-spaced, plus a photocopy.
4. A copy of the music of both titles on the tape if the conference music staff is to provide accompaniment.

Please Fill Out One Application Per Person:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone Home _____ Work _____
Solo Medium: ☐ Vocal ☐ Instrumental: Specify ☐ ☐ Dance ☐ Sign _____
First Choice Title _____
Composer _____
Second Choice Title _____
Composer _____

For which services would you be available: _____
Will you need the conference to provide accompaniment? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If Yes, please describe your needs: _____
I certify that I am actively involved in _____
(MCC Congregation) and would be willing to provide my services as a soloist
at the direction of the Director of Music.
Signature _____ Date _____

Recommendation:

We, the undersigned, recommend the ministry of this applicant as a soloist District Conference.
Signature _____ Date _____
Position/Title _____
Signature _____ Date _____
Position/Title _____

Deadline:

Applications must be **postmarked by April 19, 1995.**

Return Completed Application To:

Dr. Tim Tyson, Director Of Music
First MCC of Atlanta
1379 Tullie Road
Atlanta, GA. 30329

DISTRICT CONFERENCE, MONTGOMERY, AL.

May 5, 6, 7, 1995

Ensembles APPLICATION

Ensembles asked to minister in worship services at District Conference will be scheduled as time restrictions allow. Due to the number and structure of services, it is not possible to use all who offer their musical gifts. Rehearsal time, space and sound check time may be arranged with the Director of Music. To apply you must submit:

1. This application form plus a photocopy. This form must include the signed recommendation of two of the following: your pastor/pastoral leader; your music director; your district coordinator; your district lay representative.
2. A cassette audition tape. Applicants will be evaluated on the quality of the content, not the quality of the recording. The tape should include two different titles that speak about different aspects of the Christian faith/experience. Selections must fall with the UFMCC guidelines for inclusive language.
3. The proposed lyrics of the two titles contained on the tape, typed double-spaced, plus a photocopy.
4. A copy of the music of both titles on the tape if the conference music staff is to provide accompaniment.

Please Fill Out One Application Per Person:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Home _____ Work _____

Description of Ensemble (vocal, brass quartet, etc.) _____

First Choice Title _____

Composer _____

Second Choice Title _____

Composer _____

For which services would you be available: _____

Will you need the conference to provide accompaniment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please describe your needs: _____

I certify that I am actively involved in _____

(MCC Congregation) and as representatives of the ensemble state the ensemble would be willing to provide its ministry for District Conference at the direction of the Director of Music.

Signature _____ Date _____

Recommendation:

We, the undersigned, recommend the ministry of this applicant as a soloist District Conference.

Signature _____ Date _____

Position/Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Position/Title _____

Deadline:

Applications must be **postmarked by April 19, 1995.**

Return Completed Application To:

Dr. Tim Tyson, Director Of Music

First MCC of Atlanta

1379 Tullie Road

Atlanta, GA. 30329

GLAD

GLAD TIDINGS

March 25, 1996 Volume 1, Issue 2

Lent is exactly the right time for Christians to get serious about with whom they intend to stand - Rev. Jim Richards

They just don't get it.....

Rev. Jim Richards is Senior Pastor of MCC Knoxville.

Some years ago I went to a Middle School concert.

Two of my kids were performing. It was the Winter Concert.

One of the great

pieces of music for the Christmas season, though school choirs are seldom really up to it, is the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah." There is an old practice associated with that piece of music: people stand when it is played. That started because at its first performance, the King stood

and the people were not to remain seated when Royalty stood. The King probably stood because his foot had gone to sleep, not for any remarkable Christian reasons, but the act has come to mean a sign of allegiance to the God of Jesus Christ

At the school concert, when that Chorus commenced, most, not all, of the audience got to its feet, including Ann and me. Two women seated next to me had been kibitzing all evening about this and that. One of them said, "why are they standing," as they faced the quandary of whether to follow suit. "I don't know," her friend said, looking to see whom she knew among those standing. At last she said, "but I think I want to be with

(Continued on page 2)

AROUND THE DISTRICT

MCC of the Cornerstone-Mobile dedicated their church building and celebrated their 11th anniversary the weekend of March 2 & 3. A dinner Saturday night featuring the Music Ministry of Carolyn Marshall and services Sunday morning and evening marked the occasion. Rev. Jay Neely, District Coordinator spoke Saturday night and brought the message Sunday Morning. Pastor, Rev. Helene Loper had high praise for the newly formed choir. **Christ Covenant MCC - Atlanta** has put a contract on a church building in

the Atlanta suburb of Decatur, GA. In 1973, Decatur was the site of the First General Conference held outside California. **EXCEL of the Rainbow Zebra** will have a weekend retreat April 12-14 at Banner Elk, North Carolina. Registration is limited to 45 for this meeting in the North Carolina Mountains and the fee is \$80.00. Telephone Trudi Barreras, Atlanta 404 892 7219 (Evenings) for information & registration.



Jesus chose the road less traveled

what a difference that has made for all humankind

More from the GLAD District

St. John's MCC - Raleigh, in cooperation with the Wake County Health department, has started on site anonymous HIV testing on Saturdays from 1-3. This congregation also has an active group of people working

on the Ministry of Diversity in Spiritual Community (formerly DPOC) and Weaving Intercultural Networks of Diversity (formerly WPHR) meeting the first Sunday of every month at 4 PM. Rev. Marge Ragona. Pastor of **Covenant MCC -**

Birmingham has announced the beginning of a bible study in East Alabama. Residents from Pell City, Anniston and Lincoln will be meeting on Wednesdays. Richard Barham, Clergy in Formation, will facilitate the study. **Covenant** is join-

ing with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama to promote a coffee house setting at the church for young people 25 and under the second and fourth Friday of every month at 7 PM.

NEW MAILING AD-

Choosing Whom to stand with
Rev. Jim Richards Editorial
GLAD Task Force Needs Your Help
District Conference

I think I want to be with them...

(Continued from page 1)
them."

I watched the Christian Coalition gathering in Des Moines, Iowa just before the caucuses met to choose Republican candidates (Dole and Buchanan were the top two). I heard these "Christians" demonizing gay people and indulging in what Ronald Reagan called demagoguery and, as Frank Rich wrote in the New York Times, "...urging their C-Span audience to send this evil life style back to Satan where it came from!" And every GOP presidential candidate with the single honorable exception of Richard Lugar endorsed the event - by either showing up on stage or distributing a public letter of support."

I believe that the Lenten Season, symbolic of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness,

coming to terms with what he was willing to stand or fall for, is exactly the right time for Christians to get serious about with whom they intend to stand. Not to decide is to decide. Liberty and Justice an organization spawned by MCC-Knoxville - needs your help and support. So does Gay Pride. If you're a Republican, so does the Log Cabin Society.

Poet Robert Frost wrote:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

Know this, my friends: God loves you. The upshot of Jesus' 40 days preparation was that he was prepared to stand for compas-



April 7th, 1996

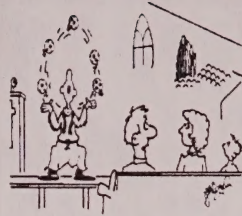
sion. Odd, isn't it, that society bashed him because he was compassionate? They wanted him to be mean spirited and judgmental. He chose the road less traveled by and that has made all the difference.

Rev. Jim Richards

Choosing.....

"We are surrounded by people who may not practice many virtues, but define themselves as virtuous. It's easy when you write your own rules - much easier than, say, taking up your cross and following Jesus."

Columnist Joseph Sobran
(c)1994 Universal Press
Syndicate



"This new pastor really knows how to hold a congregation's attention."

Jerry Cogan cMMLr

DRESS FOR MCC Asheville: PO Box 2359, Asheville, NC 28802. Please correct this on your District listing. **First MCC Atlanta** Rev. Elder Troy Perry will be at the 11:00 am service on Palm Sunday to tell about the new Headquarters Building in Los Angeles. **First MCC Chancel Choir** is preparing to do a Resurrection Musical called "*The Day He Wore My Crown*", this will be presented at the 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM services on Easter Sunday. This promises to be a fantastic production complete with costumes and scenery. . This production will include District Coordinator Rev. Jay Neely doing the narration. Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey will also be at First MCC May 11, 12, 13 for a Spiritual Renewal. **MCC Coastal Georgia** held a Leadership Workshop on March 17th with Candice Gingrich being one of the leaders. They also held a Irish Culture Worship Service that evening with over sixty people in attendance. **MCC Huntsville's** Board of Directors approved Rev. Victoria Mitchussen, former Pastor MCC Nashville, as Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care. **MCC Greenville** will have Rev.

Troy Perry as a special guest on March 30th.. There is a delay in the purchase of their proposed sanctuary at 314 Lloyd Street. Zoning challenges have surfaced. They have hired Attorney Susan Cole who was the lawyer for Shannon Faulkner when she was trying to get in Citadel.. Rev. Hinson has asked that the church be kept in prayer. On May 3rd Lynn Lavner will be in concert at

March
1996



National
Women's History Month

MCC Greenville.

The **GLAD Women's Secretariat** has published the first issue of its newsletter. Co-Chairs Libby Puckett and MaryEllen Dowdy have done an outstanding job. An article by Wanda Floyd, Associate Pastor. MCC St. John's and Member of the Secretariat's Facilitating Council, outlines the impressive and important aims of the GLAD Women's Secretariat: "I would like to see more women at District Conference and participating more in the services. We continue to be the fastest growing district in our Fellowship, and I believe we can also have the largest number of women working for God in our District.....I believe God can use each woman in this district to grow and be about the business of sharing the Gospel with those who are hurting and lost, because, my Sisters, that is what we are called to do."

Wonderful blessings at **MCC Montgomery**. Attendance has hit a new high (in the 50s) and their choir is

Around the District (Cont.)

also growing. Six small groups are meeting weekly for bible study and prayer. Pastor, Rev. Andy Knight adds that there is one group in Fort Deposit and one in Auburn.

And there is a new newsletter making rounds from the **Carroll Parish Extension** (Carrollton, GA) of First MCC Atlanta.

Our prayers are with **MCC Myrtle Beach** as they continue to promote an exciting outreach on the Atlantic Coast. Church on the Beach will be back again this year. If you plan to vacation in or near Myrtle Beach, visit them for worship. The church phone number is 803 448-9341.

St. Jude's MCC - Wilmington is making a musical mark in that city. Their choir recently (3/24) was invited to perform at a new Methodist congregation in Wilmington. They were such a hit they have been invited back. And a group from The Judson Fellowship (American Baptist) of Jamestown, New York, a sister church of St. Jude's will be joining the folks from St. Jude's for worship the last weekend of April.



"In Sunday School we're learning a song about a girl named Amazing Grace."
Harry Nelson cMML

Pastor Carl Matthew's-Naylor, **MCC of the Rainbow - Jackson (MS)** announced that his congregation is purchasing a property on McRaven Road, made available to them by several people who want to remain anonymous. The first phase of renovation is underway, dedication of the sanctuary is expected in October, Praise God! The church has changed its worship time from 3 PM to 11 AM.

MCC Charlotte is making available to the Charlotte community a very special ministry for people who have experienced the trauma of Exodus International or other so-called ex-gay movements. An experienced counselor/psychotherapist will work with individuals at the church on Independence Blvd. Pastoral Searches are underway for **MCC Nashville, MCC Chattanooga, MCC Myrtle Beach, MCC New Life - Charlotte.**

Rev. Bob Darst is now serving as Interim Pastor at **MCC Winston Salem.** **MCC Mobile's** Pastor Helene Loper is taking on Charter Hospitals. Seems they put pressure on Gay/Lesbian teens and young adults to "go along" with their family's wishes about their sexuality. Reverend Loper is telling top administrators at Charter these folks need to be encouraged to be honest with themselves and their families. Want to bet on who'll win this debate?

G LAD Task Force On Development



is task force is chaired by Pastor Mary Moore and Mr. Keith Mason of the District Committee and they are making giant strides in considering the structure of our District for the next decade and beyond. They need your help. Please look for the enclosed questionnaire they are asking every church to complete, and any member who can add information to also complete. Two new members have been added to the task force, Reverend Marianne McPherson, **MCC Huntsville** and Mr. Morris Jackson, **MCC Greenville.**

DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S ITINERARY:

MARCH 30-31	MCC HICKORY
APRIL 7	THE ATLANTA CHURCHES (EASTER SUNRISE) & FIRST MCC ATLANTA
APRIL 14	FIRST MCC ATLANTA
APRIL 21-22	MCC OF THE HIGH COUNTRY
MAY 4-5	MCC OF COASTAL GEORGIA (SAVANNAH)

UFMCC BUDGET PROCESS

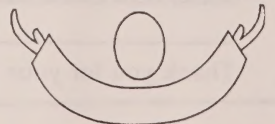
ALL LAY AND CLERGY DELEGATES WILL RECEIVE IN THE MAIL A QUESTIONNAIRE THAT MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY MAY 1, 1996. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS PART OF THE NEW BUDGET PROCESS APPROVED AT GENERAL CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA. WE WILL TABULATE THE INFORMATION ON THE QUESTIONNAIRES AND AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE THIS SPRING WILL HAVE A FORUM, AND SEND ALONG OUR SENSE OF BUDGET PRIORITY TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

EACH DISTRICT WILL MAKE SIMILAR INPUT, AND THE COUNCIL WILL PROPOSE THE BUDGET PRIORITIES BASED ON THIS INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1997 IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE SPACE FOR COMMENTS ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADDITIONAL INPUT IN THIS PROCESS.



Rev. Christine Oscar, Chair of the **GLAD Board of Ordained Ministry** has announced that interviews for Ordination Candidates will begin in Nashville on May 15. Letters have been sent to all eligible candidates.

AK by Ruth Lommatzsch
God knows the things you want to do;
God knows the things that trouble you.
God wants to lighten all your cares;
God's only waiting for your prayers.



HELP !!!

The GLAD Developmental Task Force needs your assistance! As a result of having met with some of you at General Conference, it has become apparent that we need to know what resources we have that are spread throughout the district which might be useful to other churches. Do you have a workshop(s) that you have developed that you would be willing to facilitate for other churches? Or do you have a workshop(s) scripted which others may be able to facilitate? Perhaps you have books, audio or video tapes which you are willing to share with others?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, please take a moment to fill out the section below and return it to:

Mr. Keith Mason
976 Margaret Dr.
Ladson, SC 29456

Name _____

Home Phone # _____

Address _____

Title of workshop(s), video tape(s), book(s) audio tape(s) that you are willing to share.

Would you be willing to donate any of the above to be housed in a central location?

Do you have an e-mail address or a home page on the internet? If so, please list the number. _____

Do you have any suggestions that might be useful to us concerning ways in which these resources can best be shared? _____

Thank you for your assistance in helping us to pool our resources to better serve God.

Please feel free to copy and share this with the entire congregation!



GLAD SPRING CONFERENCE

May 17, 18 & 19

Friday Saturday and Sunday

Saturday Worship *Rev. Elder Don Eastman*

Sunday Worship *Rev. Dr. Mona West, Samaritan*

Friday Worship *Ms. Kathy Beall, Pastor St. Jude's*

Music Director Mr. Tim Young, Christ Covenant

"THE PRESENCE OF GOD"

God's Rainbow Message

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' Mat 25:40 & 45 (NRSV)

WORSHIP

MUSIC

WORKSHOPS

FELLOWSHIP

Nashville, TN Days Inn-Airport Opryland Room reservations 615-361-7666

For a *guaranteed* room *reservations* must be made by *April 16*, after that date rooms on an as available basis

Conference Registration form enclosed



Truly I tell you just as You did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'
Mat 25:40 (NRSV)

Who are these, the least of Christ's brethren? Us, simply because we are lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, gay or straight or of different races? Do we believe Christ considers us the least of God's children because we possess attributes given to us by God.

Our God does not make mistakes. Christ was talking about those societies and churches which diminish certain of God's children simply because they are different from the dominant cultures within those societies or churches. Christ meant that when these institutions devalue others, they are devaluing Christ.

In MCC we believe that in Christ all things are possible. We believe in a table open to all of God's children. We do not separate anyone from God's table. Surely the presence of God is in our place.

Christ calls each of us to grow into this message. Christ calls GLAD to bring God's Rainbow Message to the South.

Mr. Tim Young and the wonderful group of talented GLAD musicians and performers are planning a splendid program of music.

There will be dancing following worship on Saturday night.

The Book-store will have many wonderful items for you to select from.

Our workshops will include such subjects as:

Risk prevention and Response in the Local Church - Don Eastman

Writing Grants for your church that succeed - Dawn Davey Nashville

Reaching Out to the Next Generation - Campus Ministry - Cindy Long, High Country

Legal Issues For Lesbian & Gay Singles and Couples- David Freudigger. Memphis an Attorney And others to be announced. These will be training for Advisor Pastors and Supervising Pastors. We're not far from Opryland for those who want to visit.

Splendid Worship featuring Reverend Elder Don Eastman, Liaison Elder to GLAD, Rev. Dr. Mona West, Dean of Samaritan Religious Institute, and Ms. Kathy Beall, Pastor of St. Jude's, Wilmington, NC

There will be a forum on the UFMCC Budget..

For additional information, call the District office. 404-325-1372 and ask for Beverly Madding. We look forward to seeing you. REMEMBER GUARANTEED ROOM RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 16!!



Hotel Information AND Conference Registration Form

Gulf Lower Atlantic District Conference --May 17, 18, 19, 1996

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Days Inn Airport/Opryland

Briley Parkway, Nashville, TN

THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN OUR PLACE

SPEAKER: Rev. Elder Donald Eastman, Rev. Dr. Mona West, Ms. Kathy Beall

1) **Hotel room rate:** \$56.00 plus tax per night (up to four persons per room) **if reserved as a member of GLAD.** To receive this \$56.00 rate, room reservations need to be made **by April 16, 1996.** The Days Inn Airport/Opryland. Reservations 1-800-851-1962; Local phone--615-361-7666. **Free parking.**

2) **Early Conference registration fee:** \$40.00 received on or before May 10, 1996. Late registration fee: \$45.00. The early registration fee includes a buffet breakfast Saturday morning. Early conference registrants will be pre-registered and will receive conference schedules by mail.

Please Print

Conference Registration Form

Please Print

Last Name: _____ Title: Ms/ Mr/ Rev/ Pastor/ Dr _____

First Name (to appear on your name tag) _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

Church

Affiliation: _____

Indicate (Member, Pastor, Pastoral Leader, Lay Delegate, Staff, Candidate (Student Clergy), District Committee, Deacon, Board Member, Visitor, etc.): _____

Name(s), Title(s), and Church Affiliation(s) of any other person(s) to be included in this reservation:

I am available to participate in worship: (actual assignments will be made at conference)

Friday Evening _____

Saturday Evening _____

Sunday Morning _____

I am willing to: _____ Lead Prayer _____ Read _____ Serve Communion _____ Take Offering _____

Please describe any particular needs _____
(If appropriate, also inform hotel)

Friday Night Dinner (optional)

Dinner tickets @\$20 each \$ _____

Speaker:

Registrations @\$40 each \$ _____

after May 10 @\$45 each \$ _____

Checks should be made out to GLAD
and enclosed with this registration form.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to Gulf Lower Atlantic District Office, 1379 Tullie Rd., Atlanta, GA 30329.

1379 Tullie Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

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Birmingham, AL 35205